



# MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

## FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2017/2018

**PCI0015 – ENGLISH FOR CREATIVE PURPOSES**  
(All sections)

11 OCTOBER 2017

9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

(2 Hours)

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### INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

1. This question paper consists of **SIX** pages with **TWO** sections only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. Write all your answers in the Answer Booklet.

## SECTION A: LITERATURE [40 MARKS]

### Question I: Literary Appreciation (20 marks)

**Instructions:** Based on the selected short stories, answer ALL questions.

1. a) What is the point of view in the story “*The Champion Bullfighter*”? (1 mark)
- b) Explain how the point of view helps to tell the story better. (4 marks)
2. “*Jasmine’s Father*” is a story about Jasmine’s decision to migrate and leave her father alone. Explain on two themes of this short story. (5 marks)
3. a) Briefly describe the setting of “*Friends for Life*”. (2 marks)
- b) Briefly describe the conflict experienced in “*Friends for Life*”. (3 marks)
4. Explain the characterisation of Jim and Madame Sofronie in the story “*The Gift of the Magi*”. (5 marks)

### Question II: Short Story (10 marks)

**Instructions:** Read the excerpt below and answer ALL the questions.

*Adapted from “Her Three Days”*  
by Sembene Ousmane

Noumbe had finally given up keeping a lookout. Dressed in her mauve velvet, she had been on the watch since before midday. She had eaten no solid food, consoling herself with the thought that Mustapha would appear at any moment. Now she fought back the pangs of hunger by telling herself that in the past, Mustapha had a habit of arriving late. In *those days*, this lateness was pleasant. Those moments, which had hung terribly heavy, had been very sweet, and they prolonged the sensual pleasure of anticipation. Now, the thought of her coming disgrace had assailed her very often. Mustapha, who had taken two wives before her, had just married another.

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Although the minutes had been sometimes shot through with doubts and fears, they had not been too hard to bear. She realised that those demanding minutes were the price that she had to pay for Mustapha’s presence. Then, she began to reckon up the score, in small ways, against the other wives. One washed his boubous when it was another wife’s turn, or kept him long into the night; another sometimes held him in her embrace a whole day, knowing quite well that she was preventing Mustapha from carrying out his marital duty elsewhere.

She sulked as she waited. Mustapha had not been near her for a fortnight. All these bitter thoughts brought her up against reality. Four months ago, Mustapha had married a younger woman. This sudden realisation of the facts sent a pain to her heart, a pain of anguish. The additional pain did not prevent her heart from functioning normally, rather it was like a sick person

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whose sleep banishes pain but who once awake again finds his suffering is as bad as ever, and pays for the relief by a redoubling of pain.

She took three spoonfuls of her medicine instead of the two prescribed, 25 and felt a little bit better in herself.

She called her youngest daughter. "Tell Mactar I want him."

The girl ran off and soon returned with her eldest brother.

"Go and fetch your father," Noumbe told him.

"Where is he, mother?"

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"Where? Oh, on the main square or at one of your other mothers'."

"But I've been to the main square already, and he wasn't there."

"Well, go and have another look. Perhaps he's there now."

The boy looked up at his mother, then drooped his head again and reluctantly turned to go.

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"When your father has finished eating, I'll give you what's left. It's meat. Now be quick, Mactar."

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It was scorching hot, and the clouds were riding high. Mactar was back after an hour. He had not found his father. Noumbe joined the group of women. They were chattering. One of them asked just for the sake of asking, "Noumbe, has your uncle (darling) arrived?"

"Not yet," she replied, then hastened to add, "Oh, he won't be long now. He knows it's my three days." She deliberately changed the conversation in order to avoid a long discussion about the other three wives, and all the time she was longing to go and find Mustapha. She was being robbed of her three days, and the other wives knew it. Her hours alone with Mustapha were being snatched from her. The thought of his being with one of the other wives, who was feeding him and opening his waistcloth when she ought to be doing all that, and the thought of his being with one of the other wives who was enjoying those hours which were hers by right made Noumbe feel so numbed that it was impossible for her to react. The idea that Mustapha might have been admitted to hospital or taken to a police station never entered her mind.

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She knew how to make tasty little dishes for Mustapha which cost him nothing. She never asked him for money. Indeed, hadn't she got herself into debt so that he would be more comfortable and have better meals at her place? In the past, when Mustapha sometimes arrived unexpectedly, which happened soon after he had married her, hadn't she hastened to make succulent dishes for him? All her friends knew this.

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A comforting thought coursed through her. Sending these aggressive and vindictive reflections to sleep, she told herself that Mustapha was bound to come to her this evening. The certainty of his presence stripped her mind of the too cruel thought that the time of her disfavour was approaching. This thought had been as much burden to her as a heavy weight dragging a drowning man to the bottom. When all the bad, unfavourable thoughts besetting her had been dispersed, like piles of rubbish on waste land swept by a flood, the future seemed brighter, and she joined in the conversation of the women with childish enthusiasm, unable to hide her pleasure and her hopes. It was like something in a parcel; questioning eyes wondered what was inside, but she alone knew and enjoyed the secret, drawing an agreeable strength from it. She took an active part in the talking and brought her wit into play. All this vivacity sprang from the joyful conviction that Mustapha would arrive this evening very hungry and be hers alone.

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1. What is the theme of the story? How is the theme conveyed through the development of the plot? (4 marks)
2. Provide two examples of setting from the short story. (2 marks)
3. What does it mean by, "In *those days*, this lateness was pleasant"? (Line 5) (2 marks)
4. Briefly describe Noumbe's character and how she was portrayed in the story through her characterisation? (2 marks)

**Question III: Poetry (10 marks)**

**Instructions:** Read the poem below and answer **ALL** the questions that follow.

**Piano**  
by D.H. Lawrence

Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me;  
Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see  
A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the tingling strings  
And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother who smiles as she sings.

In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song  
Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to belong  
To the old Sunday evenings at home, with winter outside  
And hymns in the cosy parlour, the tinkling piano our guide.

So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamour  
With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour  
Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast  
Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the past.

1. What is the tone of this poem? (2 marks)
2. 1. Identify these literary devices and provide examples of each;
  - a. Metaphor
  - b. Alliteration
  - c. Repetition
  - d. Rhyme scheme(4 marks)
3. Paraphrase the meaning of the poem in stanza 1. (2 marks)

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4. What is the conflict of the poem? (1 mark)

5. State one main theme of this poem. Explain your answer. (2 marks)

(10 marks)

## SECTION B: GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

### Question I: Verb Tense Consistency (10 marks)

**Instructions:** The following extract contains ten (10) errors in verb tense consistency. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example below:

**Example:**

No	Line	Error	Correction
0	1	... were...	... was ...

### The Psychology of Dressing Well

Years ago, I was on the bus heading to a friend's house. I knew the neighborhood but was not sure which stop to get off at. The gentleman sitting next to me noticed me looking out the window every few seconds trying to get my bearings and asked if I needed help. I told him my predicament, and he confidently told me I should exit in two stops. I thanked him for the advice. A moment later, another man standing in the aisle who have heard my conversation leaned in and said, "Actually, you should get off at the next stop." I thanked him, hopped off, and exited just like he told me to, ignoring the advice of the first guy.

What was the difference between the two men? Why did I choose to listen to one and not the other? I asked myself the same question as I walked the last few blocks to my friend's place. As I walk away from the bus, I realized in an instant why I listened to one guy and not the other. The man in the aisle was dressed sharply. He looked like he was on his way home from work in a fancy office downtown. My seatmate was wearing sweatpants, had a dark stain on his t-shirt, and looked like he might skipped showering that day.

At that moment, I realise just how many preconceived notions and stereotypes were built into my own assumptions of other people. Here I were complaining how people judged me by my clothes, while I did the same to them. Can I trust the instructions of someone who cannot be trusted to even keep food off his clothes? I did not mean to make this judgment. It was simply years of social conditioning taking over. My decision process went into autopilot. The clothes you wear and the way you groom yourself will change the way other people hear what you say. It tell them if you are like them, or if you are different. It will determine whether they listen or ignore.

I learned the same lesson again while climbing a mountain in Russia during an anti-terror operation. The mountain closed to all but locals and the mountain rescue team. We got in okay, but on the way out, there was a police checkpoint. Our driver was part of the mountain rescue team, but we were not. "Fear not," our driver inform us. "Just put these in your lap, and do not say a word." He handed us each a blue jumpsuit with the mountain rescue emblem on it as he changed into his own. The policeman at the

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checkpoint stopped us and looked directly into my never-looked-more-American-in-my-life face. Then, he glanced at the blue jumpsuit in the seat next to me and immediately waved us through. Nothing about me said “mountain rescue” except the jumpsuit. Turns out, it was all I needed. 30

This is the same reason every pharmaceutical company put actors in white lab coats to pitch their drugs in their television commercials. We immediately judge them as doctors. It is why mothers choose color-coded clothing for their babies. It is hard to tell what gender a new born is, but if you see one rolling around in a blue onesie, you know it is a boy. It is pink for girls. How you dress yourself changes who you are. It change the value of what you have to say. 35

*Adapted from Tervooren , T. (2014). The Psychology of Dressing Well (And Why You Must To Get Anywhere In Life) Retrieved from <http://riskology.co/dress-well>*

## Question II: Passive and Active Sentences (10 marks)

### Part A: (5 marks)

**Instructions:** Change the following active sentences into passive sentences.

#### Example:

(0) The terrible news shocked everybody yesterday.

The terrible news shocked everybody yesterday.

1. After winning the debate competition last week, the team will celebrate their victory tomorrow.
2. Chef Iskandar had been preparing the restaurant's fantastic dinners for two years before he moved to Singapore.
3. The famous artist, Siti Nurhaliza, will have been singing the songs for over 12 years by the time she decided to retire.
4. The cleaners were helping the workers when the thief came into the store and robbed them.
5. Over one-third of the applicants to the boarding school failed the entrance exam in July.

### Part B: (5 marks)

**Instructions:** Change the following passive sentences into active sentences.

#### Example:

(0) Everybody was shocked by the terrible news yesterday.

The terrible news shocked everybody yesterday.

1. Psychological screening for all young people at the age of 21 is being

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recommended by The British Academy of Pediatrics because symptoms of depression are often not recognised by teachers, parents or even physicians.

2. While Ahmad was driving on the North-South highway, he was pulled over and given a speeding ticket by a police officer.
3. The results of the survey on the latest development of the research were sent to the participants to analyse and comment.
4. Employees are not permitted to be under the influence or in possession of drugs or alcohol during paid work hours.
5. A serious infection had been picked up by Jack before he went abroad to attend a business meeting recently, and he had to take a lot of medicines to recover.

**End of Paper**